

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SUMMARY	S-1
S.1 INTRODUCTION	S-1
S.2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	S-1
S.3 PURPOSE AND NEED.....	S-2
S.4 PUBLIC, STAKEHOLDER AND AGENCY COORDINATION	S-3
S.4.1 Public Information Meetings	S-3
S.4.1.1 Purpose and Need and Preliminary Alternatives Meeting.....	S-3
S.4.1.2 Screening of Alternatives Meeting	S-3
S.4.2 Local Stakeholders Meetings	S-3
S.4.3 Agency Coordination.....	S-4
S.4.3.1 Purpose and Need and Preliminary Alternatives Meeting.....	S-4
S.4.3.2 Screening of Alternatives Meeting	S-4
S.5 DEVELOPMENT AND SCREENING OF ALTERNATIVES	S-4
S.5.1 General	S-4
S.5.2 Stages of Development	S-4
S.5.2.1 Concept Development Stage.....	S-5
S.5.2.2 Alternative Development Stage	S-5
S.5.2.3 Detailed Study Stage.....	S-7
S.5.3 Detailed Study Alternatives	S-7
S.5.3.1 No-Build Alternative	S-8
S.5.3.2 Build Alternatives	S-8
S.6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.....	S-10
S.7 MITIGATION MEASURES	S-11
S.8 SUMMARY COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES	S-12
S.9 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE	S-14
S.10 OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY ACTIONS	S-14
CHAPTER 1.0 - PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	1-1
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	1-1
1.1.1 Route Importance and System Linkage	1-1
1.1.2 Project Location.....	1-2
1.1.3 Project Terminii	1-2
1.1.4 Existing Highway Characteristics.....	1-3
1.1.4.1 Typical Sections - Rural	1-3
1.1.4.2 Typical Sections - Urban	1-3
1.1.5 Transportation Planning History.....	1-4
CHAPTER 2.0 - PURPOSE AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION	2-1
2.1 STATEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED	2-1
2.2 NEED FOR PROJECT	2-2
2.2.1 Capacity and Level of Service are Substandard.....	2-2
2.2.1.1 Existing and Future Traffic Volumes	2-2

2.2.2	2.2.1.2 Capacity and Level of Service.....	2-4
	Crash and Injury Rates are High.....	2-7
	2.2.2.1 Crashes and Safety	2-7
	2.2.2.2 Access.....	2-9
	2.2.2.3 Horizontal and Vertical Geometrics	2-10
CHAPTER 3.0 - ALTERNATIVES		3-1
3.1	DEVELOPMENT AND SCREENING OF ALTERNATIVES	3-1
3.1.1	General.....	3-1
3.1.2	Scoping Process	3-1
3.1.2.1	Agency and Stakeholder Coordination.....	3-1
3.1.2.2	Public Involvement.....	3-2
3.1.3	Stages of Development	3-3
3.1.3.1	Concept Development Stage	3-4
3.1.3.2	Alternative Development Stage.....	3-5
3.1.3.3	Detailed Study Stage	3-10
3.1.4	Methodology.....	3-10
3.1.5	Description of Environmental and Geographical Constraints	3-11
3.2	ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED	3-12
3.2.1	No-Build Alternative	3-12
3.2.2	Traffic System Management (TSM).....	3-13
3.2.2.1	Huntingburg.....	3-13
3.2.2.2	Jasper	3-14
3.2.2.3	Summary.....	3-14
3.2.3	Mass Transit.....	3-14
3.2.4	Improve Existing U.S. 231	3-14
3.2.5	New Alignment Alternatives	3-15
3.2.5.1	Development.....	3-15
3.2.5.2	Design Criteria.....	3-16
3.2.5.3	Descriptions.....	3-16
3.3	ALTERNATIVES RETAINED FOR DETAILED STUDY	3-27
3.3.1	No-Build Alternative	3-27
3.3.2	Build Alternatives	3-27
CHAPTER 4.0 - AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT		4-1
4.1	LAND USE AND RELATED CHARACTERISTICS.....	4-1
4.1.1	Geographical Setting.....	4-1
4.1.2	Land Use Planning and Zoning.....	4-2
4.1.3	Agricultural Land Use	4-2
4.1.4	Institutional Land Use.....	4-3
4.1.5	Commercial/Industrial Land Use.....	4-3
4.1.6	Residential Land Use	4-4
4.1.7	Cemeteries	4-4
4.1.8	Transportation.....	4-5
4.1.8.1	Highways.....	4-5
4.1.8.2	Public Transportation	4-7
4.1.8.3	Rail Service	4-7

4.1.8.4	General Aviation	4-7
4.1.8.5	Trails and Bicycle Routes.....	4-7
4.2	SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	4-8
4.2.1	Population Levels and Trends.....	4-8
4.2.2	Population Characteristics - Age and Racial Composition.....	4-9
4.2.3	Environmental Justice.....	4-10
4.2.4	Economic Setting.....	4-11
4.2.4.1	Overall Economy.....	4-11
4.2.4.2	Housing.....	4-12
4.2.5	Work Force	4-13
4.2.6	Community Services.....	4-13
4.3	ENVIRONMENTAL AND RELATED FEATURES	4-13
4.3.1	Surface Water Resources	4-13
4.3.1.1	Rivers and Streams	4-13
4.3.1.2	Lakes.....	4-14
4.3.1.3	Ponds	4-14
4.3.2	Wetlands	4-15
4.3.2.1	Classifications.....	4-15
4.3.2.2	Functions	4-16
4.3.3	Floodplains.....	4-17
4.3.4	Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply	4-18
4.3.5	Upland Plant Communities	4-18
4.3.6	Wildlife and Aquatic Species.....	4-18
4.3.7	Endangered and Threatened Species	4-19
4.3.8	Natural and Conservancy Areas.....	4-19
4.3.9	Public Use Lands	4-20
4.3.10	Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	4-21
4.3.11	Cultural Resources	4-21
4.3.11.1	Archaeological Resources	4-22
4.3.11.2	Historic Resources	4-22
4.3.12	Soils	4-23
4.3.13	Hazardous Materials	4-23
4.3.14	Noise	4-24
4.3.15	Visual and Aesthetic Resources	4-26
4.3.15.1	Viewer Groups.....	4-26
CHAPTER 5.0 - ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES		5-1
5.1	LAND USE AND SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS.....	5-1
5.1.1	Consistency With Local Land Use Plans.....	5-1
5.1.2	Economic Impacts.....	5-2
5.1.2.1	Highway-Sensitive Businesses	5-2
5.1.2.2	Real Estate Tax Base	5-3
5.1.2.3	Sales Tax Losses.....	5-4
5.1.3	Displacement and Property Impacts	5-4
5.1.3.1	Right-of-Way Impacts	5-4
5.1.3.2	Residential, Business and Partial Relocations	5-5
5.1.3.3	Neighborhood Impacts	5-7
5.1.4	Available Replacement Housing.....	5-8
5.1.5	Available Replacement Businesses.....	5-8

5.1.7	Institutional Impacts	5-9
5.1.8	Agricultural Impacts	5-9
5.1.9	Transportation and Community Access.....	5-11
5.1.9.1	Highways.....	5-11
5.1.9.2	Airports.....	5-12
5.1.9.3	Community Access.....	5-13
5.1.10	Servicing of Industrial Sites.....	5-14
5.1.11	Environmental Justice.....	5-15
5.1.11.1	Racial and Ethnic Minority Impacts	5-15
5.1.11.2	Low-Income Household Impacts.....	5-16
5.2	NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND RELATED RESOURCE IMPACTS	5-16
5.2.1	Surface Water Resources	5-16
5.2.1.1	Rivers and Streams	5-18
5.2.1.2	Lakes.....	5-19
5.2.1.3	Ponds	5-19
5.2.2	Wetlands	5-20
5.2.2.1	Methodology.....	5-20
5.2.2.2	Wetland Impacts	5-20
5.2.2.3	Summary.....	5-22
5.2.3	Floodplains.....	5-22
5.2.3.1	No-Build Alternative	5-24
5.2.3.2	Build Alternatives.....	5-24
5.2.4	Groundwater and Drinking Water Supply	5-27
5.2.5	Upland Forest and Wildlife Habitat.....	5-28
5.2.5.1	Wildlife Habitat	5-28
5.2.6	Threatened and Endangered Species	5-30
5.2.7	Natural and Conservancy Areas.....	5-32
5.2.8	Archaeological Resources/Section 106 Review	5-32
5.2.9	Historic Resources/Section 106 Review	5-32
5.2.10	Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Impacts	5-33
5.2.11	Hazardous Materials	5-33
5.2.11.1	Alternative 27	5-33
5.2.11.2	Alternative 28	5-34
5.2.12	Air Quality	5-34
5.2.12.1	No-Build Alternative	5-34
5.2.12.2	Build Alternatives.....	5-34
5.2.13	Noise	5-34
5.2.13.1	No-Build Alternative	5-36
5.2.13.2	Build Alternatives.....	5-37
5.2.13.3	Construction Noise Impacts.....	5-38
5.2.13.4	Traffic Noise Abatement Analysis	5-39
5.2.14	Visual and Aesthetic Resources.....	5-41
5.2.14.1	No-Build Alternative	5-42
5.2.14.2	Build Alternatives.....	5-42
5.2.15	Energy Impacts	5-43
5.2.15.1	Methodology.....	5-43
5.2.15.2	Energy Impacts	5-43
5.2.15.3	Summary.....	5-44
5.2.16	Construction Impacts	5-44

5.3	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	5-44
5.3.1	Introduction.....	5-44
5.3.2	Methodology	5-45
5.3.3	Analysis	5-46
5.3.4	Summary	5-52
5.4	RELATION OF LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY	5-53
5.5	IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES.....	5-53
5.6	SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.....	5-54
5.6.1	Comparison of Impacts of Alternatives	5-54
CHAPTER 6.0 - MITIGATION MEASURES AND PERMITS		6-1
6.1	MEASURES TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION FOR UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS	6-1
6.1.1	Traffic	6-1
6.1.2	Farmland	6-1
6.1.3	Acquisition/Relocation	6-1
6.1.4	Surface Water Resources	6-2
6.1.5	Wetlands	6-2
6.1.6	Floodplains.....	6-3
6.1.7	Threatened and Endangered species	6-4
6.1.8	Forests.....	6-4
6.1.9	Upland Habitat and Wildlife.....	6-5
6.1.10	Natural and Conservancy Areas.....	6-5
6.1.11	Archaeological Resources.....	6-5
6.1.12	Air Quality	6-5
6.1.13	Noise	6-5
6.1.13.1	Traffic Noise.....	6-5
6.1.13.2	Construction Noise	6-6
6.1.14	Context Sensitive Solutions	6-6
6.1.15	Borrow and Disposal	6-6
6.2	PERMITS.....	6-7
6.2.1	Section 404 and Section 10 Permit	6-7
6.2.2	Section 401 Water Quality Certification.....	6-7
6.2.3	Construction Within a Floodway Permit	6-8
6.2.4	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permit.....	6-8
6.2.5	Erosion Control.....	6-8
CHAPTER 7.0 - COMMENTS AND COORDINATION.....		7-1
7.1	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	7-1
7.1.1	Local Stakeholders Meetings	7-1
7.1.2	Public Information Meetings	7-1
7.1.2.1	Jasper High School Auditorium	7-1
7.1.2.2	Southridge High School Auditorium.....	7-2
7.2	AGENCY COORDINATION	7-2
7.2.1	Early Coordination.....	7-2
7.2.2	Interagency Review Meeting - June 2001	7-4

7.2.3	Interagency Review Meeting - April 2002	7-5
7.2.4	Threatened and Endangered Species Coordination	7-6
7.2.5	Section 106 - Consulting Parties Coordination.....	7-6
CHAPTER 8.0 - LIST OF GROUPS RECEIVING COPIES OF THE EIS		8.1
CHAPTER 9.0 - LIST OF PREPARERS		9-1
CHAPTER 10.0 - REFERENCES.....		10-1
CHAPTER 11.0 - INDEX.....		11-1

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
S.8	Summary of Detailed Study Alternatives, U.S. 231 - Dubois County.....	S-13
2.2.1.1-1	U.S. 231 Existing and Forecasted ADT	2-2
2.2.1.1-2	U.S. 231 Average Daily Truck Volumes	2-4
2.2.1.2-1	Level of Services Characteristics.....	2-5
2.2.1.2-2	U.S. 231 Existing and Forecasted Level of Service.....	2-6
2.2.2.1	U.S. 231 Crash Summary, 1996-1998	2-8
2.2.2.2	Existing Access to U.S. 231 - Rural and Urban Segments	2-10
3.1.3	Alternative Development Process Schematic	3-4
3.1.3.2-1	Summary of Level 2 Screening Data for Preliminary New Alignment Alternatives.....	3-7
3.1.3.2-2	Summary of Level 3 Screening Data for Final New Alignment Alternatives ...	3-9
3.1.3.2-3	Summary of Level 3 Screening Data for Final New Alignment Alternatives ...	3-10
3.3.2-1	Comparison of Detailed Study Alternatives	3-29
3.3.2-2	Comparison of Detailed Study Alternatives	3-30
4.1.3	Dubois County Agriculture Profile	4-2
4.2.1-1	Historical Population Growth	4-8
4.2.1-2	Projected Population Growth.....	4-9
4.2.2-1	Population Characteristics	4-9
4.2.2-2	Racial Composition.....	4-10
4.2.4.1	Income	4-11
4.2.4.2-1	Housing Types	4-12
4.2.4.2-2	Household Characteristics	4-12
4.3.14-1	Typical A-Weighted Sound Levels.....	4-24
4.3.14-2	FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria, Hourly A-Weighted Sound Level - Decibels (dBA)	4-25
5.1.2	U.S. 231 Highway-Sensitive Businesses	5-2
5.1.2.2	Rural Land Tax Losses Build Alternatives.....	5-4
5.1.3.1	Potential Displacements and Property Acquisitions	5-5
5.1.4	Available Replacement Housing Single-Family Homes for Sale (December 2002)	5-8
5.1.8	Farmland Impact Summary.....	5-10
5.2.1	Pollutant Concentrations in Highway Runoff	5-17
5.2.1.3	Numbers and Areas of Ponds Affected by Alternatives	5-19
5.2.2.2	Comparison of Wetlands Affected by Alternatives	5-21
5.2.3.2	Floodplain Impacts	5-25
5.2.5.1	Wildlife Species Commonly Found in the Project Corridor.....	5-29
5.2.13	Detailed Study Alternative Noise Impacts.....	5-35
5.2.13.1	No Build Alternative Noise Impacts.....	5-36
5.2.13.2-1	Estimated Noise Levels by Offset From Project Centerline - Build Alternatives	5-37
5.2.13.2-2	Noise-Impacted Receivers - Build Alternatives.....	5-37

5.2.13.4	Summary of Reasonableness of Noise Abatement	5-41
5.2.15.2	Gallons of Fuel Consumed in Excess of the No-Build Condition in 2030 by the Build Alternatives	5-44
5.3.3-1	Summary of Cumulative Farmland Impacts	5-51
5.3.3-2	Summary of Cumulative Forest Impacts	5-51
5.3.3-3	Summary of Cumulative Wetland Impacts.....	5-52
5.6.1	Comparison of Alternatives	5-55

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure

1.1.1	Project Location Map
1.1.2	Project Limits
1.1.4.2-1	Huntingburg Location Map
1.1.4.2-2	Jasper Location Map
2.2.1.1	Existing (2000) and Projected (2030) Average Daily Traffic Volumes
2.2.1.2	Existing and Design Year Level of Service
3.1.3.2-1	Preliminary New Alignment Alternatives Dismissed During Level I Screening
3.1.3.2-2	Preliminary New Alignment Alternatives Dismissed During Level II Screening
3.1.3.2-3	Final New Alignment Alternatives Dismissed During Level III Screening
3.2.2.1	TSM Alternative - Huntingburg
3.2.2.2	TSM Alternative - Jasper
3.3.2-1	Detailed Study Alternatives
3.3.2-2	Typical Roadway and Bridge Sections
4.1.1	Bedrock Geology
4.1.2-1	City of Huntingburg Zoning and Existing Land Use Plan
4.1.2-2	City of Huntingburg Comprehensive Land Use Plan
4.1.2-3	City of Jasper Existing Land Use Plan
4.1.2-4	City of Jasper Proposed Land Use Plan
4.1.3	Prime Farmland
4.1.8.5	Suggested Bike Routes
4.2.2	2000 Census Tract Data
4.3.1.3	Constructed Pond
4.3.2.1-1	Emergent Wetland
4.3.2.1-2	Scrub/Shrub Wetland
4.3.2.1-3	Forested Wetland
4.3.4	Hydrogeological Settings
4.3.9-1	Public Use Lands
4.3.9-2	Public Use Lands
4.3.11.2-1	U.S. 231 Historic and Architectural Sites
4.3.11.2-2	U.S. 231 Historic and Architectural Sites
4.3.11.2-3	U.S. 231 Historic Architectural Sites
5.1.1-1	City of Huntingburg Comprehensive Land Use Plan
5.1.1-2	City of Jasper Proposed Land Use Plan

5.1.9.2	Huntingburg Airport Layout Plan
5.2-1	Wetlands, Woodlands, Natural Areas and Hazardous Materials Sites
5.2-2	Wetlands, Woodlands, Natural Areas and Hazardous Materials Sites
5.2-3	Wetlands, Woodlands, Natural Areas and Hazardous Materials Sites
5.2-4	Wetlands, Woodlands, Natural Areas and Hazardous Materials Sites
5.2-5	Wetlands, Woodlands, Natural Areas and Hazardous Materials Sites
5.2-6	Wetlands, Woodlands, Natural Areas and Hazardous Materials Sites
5.2-7	Wetlands, Woodlands, Natural Areas and Hazardous Materials Sites
5.2.1-1	Surface Water Resources and Approximate Floodplain Boundaries
5.2.1-2	Surface Water Resources and Approximate Floodplain Boundaries
5.2.1-3	Surface Water Resources and Approximate Floodplain Boundaries
5.2.1-4	Surface Water Resources and Approximate Floodplain Boundaries
5.2.1-5	Surface Water Resources and Approximate Floodplain Boundaries
5.2.1-6	Surface Water Resources and Approximate Floodplain Boundaries
5.2.1-7	Surface Water Resources and Approximate Floodplain Boundaries
5.2.9-1	U.S. 231 Historic Architectural Sites
5.2.9-2	U.S. 231 Historic Architectural Sites
5.2.9-3	U.S. 231 Historic Architectural Sites
5.2.13.4	Impact Criteria for Determining Severity of Noise Impact for the Consideration of Noise Abatement
5.3.3-1	Dubois County Farmland
5.3.3-2	Dubois County Forest Lands

APPENDICES

Appendix

A	Aerial Photographs - Alternative 27 and Alternative 28
B	Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form
C	Wetlands Memorandum of Understanding
D	Comment Letters <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Early Coordination Response Letters▪ Response Letters - June 2001▪ Response Letters - April 2002▪ Section 7 Coordination
E	Section 106 - Consulting Parties Coordination